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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Alan Guthrie Willis of Bolingbrook, who passed away on October 1, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Willis grew up near St. Louis, Missouri, and studied history at Washington University; he obtained a master's degree in American history from the State University of New York and another master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, After a brief stint as a welfare case worker, he moved to the Chicago area and worked as a librarian for nearly 10 years in Bolingbrook, followed by a position at North Central College's Oesterle Library in Naperville; he later worked for Nichols Library in Naperville, where he met his wife, a fellow employee at the time, and remained there until retirement; and

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WHEREAS, He co-authored the book, *American Suburbs: Rating Guide and Fact Book*, in the early 1990s; he collected 78 rpm records, especially those featuring African-American jazz bands of the 1930s, baseball cards, stamps, and classic films; he was an avid birder, researched the history of geography, and played the hammered dulcimer; and

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1 WHEREAS, He was very active in the DuPage African Methodist
2 Episcopal Church in Lisle; he was a member of the Brotherhood
3 Men's Ministry and president of both the Chancel Choir and
4 Hospitality Ministry; and

5 WHEREAS, He was also a former precinct captain in
6 Bolingbrook and volunteered to help the homeless with DuPage
7 PADS in Wheaton; one of his proudest accomplishments was
8 working with community leaders in Bolingbrook to mark the
9 observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and

10 WHEREAS, Alan Willis is survived by his wife, Lakshmi
11 Kapoor Willis; his stepson, Hareesh Kapoor; and his brothers,
12 Wayne and Geoffrey Willis; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
15 his family and friends, the passing of Alan Willis; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Alan Willis as a symbol of our
19 sincere sympathy.